

Interstate 17 alternatives pondered at meeting

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Perhaps in 20 years or more, Flagstaff could see a new freeway parallel to Interstate 17, allowing bypasses of accidents and traffic jams.

Representatives from the Arizona Department of Transportation were at South Beaver Elementary School Monday night soliciting public suggestions on how to ease congestion from Flagstaff to Phoenix.

The plans are very expensive, very far-off and very tentative.

"I would call these possibilities rather than alternatives," said Bill Pederson, of ADOT.

Proposed routes include a highway or freeway corridor between Wet Beaver Creek and I-17 heading north to Mormon Lake and Winona east of Flagstaff at Interstate 40.

Another route would cross I-17 east of Munds Mountain, then head up to Interstate 40 near Camp Navajo or east Flagstaff or Winona.

Another possible route would run west of I-17 and north of Surprise to near Dewey, Paulden and then on to Seligman or Ash Fork or Williams.

Another route would link Highway 101 to near Camp Verde to Interstate 40 near Winona or east Flagstaff or Camp Navajo.

About 30 people attended. The study will go to the Arizona State Transit Board next year, with more discussion of feasibility.

Go to <http://tpd.azdot.gov/planning/i17alternatives.php> and click on "potential corridor alternatives" to see a map.

Comments are accepted at that Web site until June 20, or via e-mail to kristin@kdacreative.com.